

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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NORTH AFRICA**

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INFORMATION MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGIN

NCO21412Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GM. Aug 78 NC

[Text] Information and Culture Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt is against capitulatory and defeatist solutions and that it is working for the restoration of the Arab nation's rights and dignity and for the liberation of the Arab territories and the regaining of the Palestinian people's rights. He said that this is the policy by which Egypt is working by modern, wide-scoped means.

In a speech he delivered at the new session of the Arab Information Ministers Council, which began at the Arab League headquarters this morning, Minister as-Sawi added that Egypt always opens its heart to joint Arab action. His excellency also spoke about the campaigns Iraq is launching against Egypt. He said that this is contrary to the rules of the charter of honor of Arab information.

The Arab Information Ministers Council meetings began with a speech by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad. He spoke about the need for consolidating Arab solidarity because whenever differences have intensified, the Zionist enemy has intensified his aggression and treachery. He said that the only way to prevent the Arab homeland from becoming an arena for rivalry and conflict among the big powers is through political solidarity, economic integration and social development. He said that Arab information bears a great responsibility in this respect.

The head of the Sudanese delegation, Muhammad Salhin, then delivered a speech on behalf of the Sudanese information minister. He called for concerted efforts to restore the desired Arab solidarity in order to achieve the aims of the Arab nation and tackle its fateful issues. He expressed the hope that Arab-African cooperation will be strengthened and that the upcoming joint meeting of the Arab and African information ministers will be instrumental in strengthening cooperation between the two sides.

Saudi Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani also delivered a speech in which he spoke about the dangers to which the Arab nation is exposed and about the need for uniting the Arab ranks. He said: We must now work to achieve the unity of the Arab ranks.

YAR Information Minister Ahmad Salim ar-Ru'ayni also spoke, emphasizing the need for implementing the Arab League Council resolutions regarding Yemen. He said that the phase through which the Arab nation is passing requires solidarity in order to confront all the dangers.

The Tunisian minister of state for information then spoke about the role of Arab information in consolidating cooperation among the Arab states in the various fields.

The Somali information minister also spoke, emphasizing the importance of Arab solidarity in confronting all the dangers being experienced by the Arab nation.

The open session was then adjourned. The Arab information ministers then began discussing the subjects on the agenda, which included the Arab information strategy, the establishment of a new international information system and the recommendations of the Arab Information Permanent Committee.

ARAFAT RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM HAVANA

JN021728Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1615 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution armed forces, arrived in Beirut early this morning. Brother Abu 'Ammar has participated in the silver jubilee celebrations of Cuba's independence and participated as a guest of honor in the 11th World Youth and Students Conference currently being held in Havana.

During his visit to Cuba, brother Abu 'Ammar met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and several members of the PCC Political Bureau, and held important talks with President Castro.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also met with the Palestinian delegation participating in the celebrations and with Palestinian students in Cuba. At the conclusion of his visit at the invitation of more than 1,000 world journalists, brother Abu 'Ammar held a press conference in which he explicitly reviewed important issues on the Palestinian, Arab and world levels. Brother Abu 'Ammar also talked about the national independence movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

ABU AL-LUTF OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWED

JN022124Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1715 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brethren: Events in our region always seem to be successive and mobile. The PLO, because it is the leadership of Palestinian national action as well as the basic and central side in the constant process of struggle in this area [words indistinct] the movement in all the local, Arab and international arenas. Our meeting today is with Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department. We have many questions on several topics that give a complete picture of the current political situation in its Palestinian, Arab and international dimensions. [begin recording]

[Question] Brother Abu al-Lutf, we first begin with Belgrade, where the conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers [words indistinct] and as a deputy chairman of the conference. The question is: What is your evaluation of the results of this conference on the Palestinian level? Do you think that it included new elements of support for the struggle of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] The conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers was successful because it displayed notable interest in the Palestinian cause and the Middle East crisis. All speeches delivered by the delegation heads touched on the necessity of solving the Middle East crisis and seeing that the Palestinian people obtain their national legitimate rights to establish an independent Palestinian state on their national soil. Moreover, the opening speech delivered by President Tito referred in a clear and decisive manner to the fact that security and peace in the Middle East region (in general) is exposed to great tremors and that in order to preserve world peace it is necessary to solve the Middle East crisis, something which will not be achieved unless the Palestinians obtain their legitimate national rights and establish their independent state [words indistinct]. The Palestinian issue was of the greatest interest to the nonaligned conference. Furthermore, the draft resolutions on the Palestinian and Middle East issues enjoyed the support of all delegations. There is another factor: The nonaligned states decided to call the UN General Assembly into special session to discuss [words indistinct].

[Question] Brother Abu al-Lutf, a visit will be paid by a delegation of the Fatah Central Committee to the Soviet Union. What [words indistinct] this visit as part of the current political conditions [words indistinct]?

[Answer] This is an important delegation from the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah. [Words indistinct] to the Soviet Communist Party and will deal with all affairs, especially the conditions and developments in the Middle East region. The intransigence of Israel, made explicit by its nonwithdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, will be discussed. The delegation will also explain Fatah's views on these developments and the necessity to coordinate action in the face of this imperialist-Zionist tide in the Arab region. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union, as a friendly country, is greatly interested in seeing and hearing from the Fatah Central Committee, particularly from the brothers, about all the current issues and many other ones which concern the Arab nation, such as that of Eritrea. There will be an exchange of views on all these issues and [word indistinct] the issue of Palestine in particular.

[Question] There are some (?stances) which some people explain as indicating that As-Sadat's initiative has failed. Do you agree with this explanation? Can we say [words indistinct]?

[Answer] These talks have lost [words indistinct]. This is a remark we hear and see in [words indistinct] and often hear on the radio. It is also said even by Egyptian officials. That is to say, this initiative has reached its end and come face to face with Israeli intransigence, particularly that of Begin, who does not want to give up an inch of the territories. He wants the Arabs to make concessions. We expected this failure since (?the beginning) of the initiative, and our expectations were expressed in several statements. We also conveyed our expectations to our Arab brothers on every occasion, extended them to our friends and published them in magazines and newspapers as well as broadcast them over our radios. Therefore, to say that this initiative has indeed reached the end is true and inevitable. This is also explicit in the Israeli officials' viewpoints as well as in those of the Egyptian officials themselves. We hear public opinion, as expressed by many European leaders who were backing this initiative, say that this initiative has failed and reached its end.

[Question] One last question, brother Abu al-Lutf: There are intermingled and accelerated events taking place in Lebanon. [Words indistinct] on the Arab Deterrent Forces, sending the army to the south and evacuating the U.S. nationals from Lebanon. What is your assessment of the situation in Lebanon in light of these events?

[Answer] The Lebanese arena is very important. Owing to our presence in the Lebanese arena, it is our concern that peace and reassurance prevail in Lebanon. Right from the beginning we were concerned that the Lebanese arena be a complete and reassured arena free from battles. We have participated and still participate with the legitimate authority to find ways by which we can [word indistinct] and offer all we can to facilitate the task of the legitimate authority. We have been with the legitimate authority right from the beginning. But we see that many of the elements you mentioned are the ones who perform [words indistinct], obstruct national unity and push Lebanon into states of affairs not liked by any Lebanese citizen, such as division, loss of security, Israel's control of part of Lebanon and its support for the isolationist forces. All these states of affairs are obvious.

We, the Palestinian revolution, try our best, as guests in this fraternal country, to exert every possible effort so that reassurance, peace and national unity may prevail in Lebanon, and so that [word indistinct] the army of Lebanon may assume the task of defending Lebanon and take positions along the border. Lebanon, its army and people, must return to a normal state. This is [word indistinct] of the Lebanese people. There is no doubt that we are with this nation and contribute all we can to the legitimate authority of President Sarkis and the prime minister so that Lebanon may return to its usual, normal life. [end recording]

PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR IN PARIS REPORTEDLY KILLED

NC031115Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 3 August--Informed sources in the Arab League headquarters in Paris have confirmed that the PLO office director in Paris, 'Izz ad-Din Qalaaq, was killed in the attack which a group of gunmen launched on the Arab League building and the PLO office this morning.

FATAH DELEGATION HOLDS FURTHER TALKS IN MOSCOW

JN021803Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] The delegation of the Fatah Central Committee headed by brother Abu Mazin, the assistant secretary [as heard] of the Central Committee, and members of the delegation brothers Abu Iyad, Abu Salih and Abu as-Sa'id, continued their talks in Moscow with senior CPSU officials.

This morning the delegation held important talks with a delegation of the CPSU Central Committee. The talks dealt with the current political situation, concepts and developments of the Palestinian question, which is considered the key to political and military events in the Arab area. The two delegations reviewed the achievements of the Palestinian revolution and the active role played by the national liberation movement.

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY AIDS RIGHTISTS WITH AIRPORT FACILITIES

N301920Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Sources of the joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon have affirmed that the racist Zionist enemy has placed two military airports along the Palestine-Lebanon border at the disposal of the isolationist gangs.

The sources added that the Zionist enemy is supporting the isolationist gangs in order to confront the joint forces in the south and to insure these gangs' control over the areas handed over to them by the enemy following his withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

KUWAIT

INVESTIGATION INTO BRIBERY CASE REPORTED

NC021620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 2 August--A responsible Kuwaiti source said today that an investigation was being conducted into a news agency report about a bribe, in connection with the sale of an American plane to Kuwait Airways.

The source said that official quarters had adopted urgent measures to find out the facts, and the necessary action would be taken in light of the results of the investigation.

A U.S. news agency had reported that \$300,000 was paid to a person to facilitate the sale of a Boeing plane to Kuwait Airways.

SAUDI ARABIA

NEW OIL EMBARGO REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED

AU021615Y Rome ANSA in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 78 AU

[Text] Cairo, August 2 [ANSA]--Saudi Arabia is reportedly examining the possibility of slapping a new embargo on crude for the Western world in October, according to Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo.

The new embargo, they say, would be erected if the United States is unable to convince Israel of the need to negotiate with Egypt on the conditions drawn up by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat for a Middle East peace settlement. Saudi Arabia is said to feel that these terms come very close to meeting Arab state demands, including those advanced by the "rejection front," for arriving at a peace settlement in the region.

The crude embargo, said to be under consideration by Saudi Arabia, would be aimed primarily at the United States but its repercussions would be felt throughout the Western world and influence the trend of the dollar. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has already written into their agenda for September a changeover from the dollar to a basket of selected world currencies for indexing the price of their product.

The embargo would almost certainly be enforced also by Iran, Israel's principal oil supplier. The cutoff of shipments would fit in with the shah's plan to strengthen regional solidarity against communist penetration in the area.

These Arab diplomatic sources in the Egyptian capital (?said) that Saudi Arabia is now laying the groundwork for a new embargo through efforts aimed at the reconciliation of the various Arab states for coordinated action. Saudi Arabian hereditary Prince Faud ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has just concluded a swing through the Arab capitals of Cairo, Amman, Damascus and Baghdad.

V. 3 Aug 78

C 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KHALID RECEIVES SUDANESE MINISTER, NUMAYRI MESSAGE

LD011116Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Dr Baha ad-Din Idris, Sudanese minister of state, in his office at Ri'asah Palace in At-Ta'if today. Dr Idris handed his majesty a written message from His Excellency Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard.

Dr Idris arrived in At-Taif this morning. He was received at the airport by a representative of royal protocol.

YEMEN--PDRY

MUHAMMAD RECEIVES ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR

LD021638Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today received the Ethiopian ambassador to Aden.

"During the meeting, the brother chairman and the comrade ambassador exchanged views on cooperation between the two friendly peoples and countries of the PDRY and Ethiopia and ways of developing them. They also reviewed the situation in the region.

"The comrade ambassador assured the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers of the solidarity of the government and people of socialist Ethiopia with the PDRY."

YEMEN--YAR

MILITARY TRIAL OF DISSIDENT ARMY OFFICERS TO BE HELD

JN021223Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 2 August--The INA correspondent in San'a' has learned that a military trial will take place later today in which charges will be brought against Maj 'Abdal'ah 'Abd al-'Alim and 29 other officers for their involvement in an abortive coup during the administration of President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The trial will be in absentia since the accused officers have fled the country.

Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, issued a decision yesterday dismissing 30 officers from the army and stripping them of their military ranks.

EGYPT'S POSITION ON TALKS OUTLINED IN AL-AHRAM

NC022255Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 August--In its Thursday's edition, AL-AHRAM reports that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with Egypt's Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal and Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, who returned to Cairo today to prepare a complete study on Egypt's position in view of recent developments in the Middle East. The paper says that the meeting, which lasted 3 hours, was in order to prepare this study before the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Egypt on Monday. The paper publishes a statement by a responsible Egyptian source in which he says that in its forthcoming discussions with Vance, Egypt will stress, as it did with the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East Alfred Atherton, the following points:

1. Egypt adheres to the initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat to achieve a just peace.
2. Egypt wants the continuation of the contacts but on a firm and clear basis--Israel's commitment to withdraw from the territories, not to infringe on sovereignty and to waive its previous conditions for any negotiations.
3. Egypt is eager for the United States to continue its role as a partner in the establishment of peace in the Middle East.
4. The contacts and their continuation are not an end in themselves but a means to establish peace, which requires Israel to announce its abandonment of its previous conditions not to withdraw and not to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people.

The source added that Egypt welcomes the visit by Vance because it is consistent with the framework which Egypt laid for continuing the momentum of the peace process.

AL-AHRAM DEFINES STEPS VANCE MUST TAKE

NC030826Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the heading "Vance and the Next Step," AL-AHRAM discusses the U.S. secretary of state's tour expected to start at the beginning of next week. The tour is an attempt to find a common ground for determining the nature of future steps.

AL-AHRAM says: The U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, is expected to start his Middle East tour when he arrives in Israel at the beginning of next week in an attempt to search for a new thread in the efforts for a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. Vance will be holding similar talks in Egypt with President as-Sadat to enable him, he says, to determine the nature of the steps which must be taken next.

AL-AHRAM adds: It will not be difficult for the U.S. secretary of state to comprehend the nature of future steps. It became clear from the Leeds Castle talks--which Egypt agreed to attend in response to a request by the U.S. President--that Israel's concept of peace was still distorted.

AL-AHRAM continues: It would have been possible for Egypt to agree on a second, third and fourth meeting to preserve the continuity of the current contacts with Israel had the Israeli Government shown readiness to continue along the real course to peace during the Leeds Castle talks.

Since the U.S. point of view is that any new elements in the Israeli stand can only appear in the context of direct contacts, the Egyptian point of view is that these contacts cannot continue forever without bearing any fruit.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: Egypt's position on this is clear: There is no one--here at least--who wants to uproot "the tree"; nevertheless, we want "the sterility" brought about by the current Israeli position to be removed--the sterility which prevents the birth of peace in the area. This is the first step which the U.S. secretary of state should undertake in Israel because Egypt, which planted the tree of peace, will not be the first to cut it down.

AS-SADAT, HUA KUO-FENG EXCHANGE ANNIVERSARY CABLES

NC021731Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 August--President Anwar as-Sadat has exchanged cables with Chinese Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and Chairman of the Chinese Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Yeh Chien-ying on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the 23 July Revolution.

President as-Sadat has received the following cable from the two Chinese leaders: On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the national day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, we wish to convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes to you and to the people and government of Egypt on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my name [as received].

The Egyptian people are a great people with noble revolutionary and struggle traditions. Under your leadership, the people and Government of Egypt have waged a continuous struggle against imperialism, domination and Zionism. It is worthwhile mentioning that your struggling spirit, which challenged and opposed domination by the big powers, has always enjoyed the backing and support of the states and peoples in the world that support right and justice. The people and government of China cannot but express their profound admiration and respect for all we have said.

While wishing you more victories in your struggle, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to assure you that the people and Government of China will support, as they always did, the Egyptian people, Palestinian people and the people of Arab world in their just struggle to regain their lost territory and to restore national rights. We are confident that through the joint efforts of our two countries, the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Egyptian and Chinese people will continue to grow. We wish your country more prosperity and wish your people more prosperity and progress.

President as-Sadat sent the following reply cable:

I received with gratitude your kind cable of congratulations on the anniversary of our country's national day. It gives me pleasure to convey to both of you and to the government and friendly people of China my profound gratitude for the kind feelings you have expressed toward me and toward the Egyptian people, who reciprocate in your friendliness and respect.

While appreciating your sincere support for their just struggle to regain their land and restore the national rights of the Palestinian people, our people look forward with confidence to the continuation of this support, together with the support of all peoples who support right and justice, so that a just and durable peace may be established in the Middle East.

I am confident that the ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation between our countries will become stronger and firmer with the passage of time, thus serving our joint interests and the interests of international security and peace. I convey to you my sincerest greetings coupled with my wishes for your health and happiness and for more progress and advancement for your friendly people.

'AKHIR SA'AH DISCUSSES AID TO PDRY, YAR

NC021020Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0747 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 August--Quoting informed Arab sources, the Cairo magazine 'AKHIR SA'AH says in today's edition that Egyptian and Saudi military teams have recently toured the islands belonging to the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR] which are close to the Red Sea coast and control its southern entrance.

The sources add that the aims of the tour were to express support for the YAR, provide protection to its islands and coast and meet its military and defense requirements in order to confront possible external invasion threats by the PDRY's ruling regime together with the help of Soviet and Cuban experts.

The sources point out that the teams' visit was arranged with the San'a' government after Egypt and Saudi Arabia had received definite information that Ethiopia had handed the coastal zone of Eritrea over to Israeli intelligence to prevent any Arab aid for the Eritrean revolutionaries from entering. This measure, the sources add, will also enable Israel to threaten the Yemeni islands off the Eritrean coast and also threaten the security of the Arab states on the Red Sea.

'AKHIR SA'AH also says that the Libyan leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, has pledged to help the PDRY and to protect its communist regime if it is exposed to any foreign aggression.

The PDRY interior minister, Salih Muslih, conveyed his pledge to the PDRY Presidential Council in Aden soon after his return from Libya recently. While in Libya, Muslih handed a private message to Al-Qadhdhafi from Aden Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the ministers, requesting economic and military aid for the PDRY in accordance with the instructions from the Soviet Union.

CONFISCATION OF AL-AHALI APPROVED BY COURT

NC021621Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 August--At its session today under the presidency of Counselor Anwar Abu Sahla, southern Cairo's Court of First Instance upheld the decision to confiscate today's 23rd edition of the paper AL-AHALI. After examining this edition, the court decided that it includes several misleading, biased and inciting articles, which could disturb the public security.

INA: ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF CONSUL IN KARACHI FOILED

JN021711Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Karachi, 2 August--Two armed men belonging to the Palestinian rightwing this morning made an attempt on the life of the Iraqi consul in Karachi, Pakistan. An INA correspondent reports that the two armed men, mercenaries of the rightist commands of the PLO, opened fire on the car of Iraqi Consul 'Amir Naji Zayn ad-Din when it stopped in front of the consulate building. He said that the consulate guards and Pakistani police-men foiled the attempt after clashing with the two agents. They killed one and wounded the other.

Quoting official sources, the INA correspondent says that the wounded agent admitted, at a preliminary investigation conducted by Pakistani police before he was taken to a hospital, that they had received instructions from another group belonging to the rightist Palestinian commands to attack the Iraqi Consulate building in Karachi and the Iraqi Embassy in Islamabad. The INA correspondent pointed out that in the clash with the two armed men consulate official Ghayib Fahd Hasan was wounded. He was taken to a hospital where a bullet was removed from his shoulder. Hasan is now in good health.

In Baghdad the INA political commentator stressed that this cowardly attempt again shows that the Palestinian rightwing is linked with the capitulatory settlement plans and with the Imperialist moves in the Arab area, and clearly reveals the extent of the deviation by the rightist Palestinian commands. The punishment that the two agent mercenaries received [word indistinct] on 2 August 1978 and the punishment that the mercenaries who attacked the Iraqi embassies in London and Paris have received show that such crimes cannot escape prompt, firm punishment.

INA: ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT FOILED

JN022102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 August--Armed elements of the Palestinian rightwing today made a cowardly attempt on the life of the Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon. An INA correspondent in Beirut says that the car of the Iraqi ambassador was hit by a number of bullets near the municipal playground while on its way back from the Al-Fakihani area where it had taken him.

The correspondent said there was no damage to the car, which was driven by the ambassador's driver. The driver and the ambassador's escort in the car were not hurt. He added that the new crime committed by the Palestinian rightwing took place only 15 meters from a checkpoint of the Syrian regime forces operating in Lebanon under the cover of the deterrent forces.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN021140Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 August--Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, arrived here at noon today on a visit to Iraq. The Saudi prince was accorded an official reception at Baghdad International Airport, where he was met by Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; RCC members; ministers; senior government officials; and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Baghdad.

The delegation accompanying Prince Fahd includes Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Prince Sulayman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh.

Received by Al-Bakr

JN021232Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 August--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here this afternoon Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and the situation in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Hamid 'Alwan, acting minister of state for foreign affairs; and on the Saudi side by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh; and the Saudi ambassador to Baghdad.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN021812Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 August--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, met here this evening with His Highness Fahd ibn al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them in the interest of the Arab nation. They also discussed the general situation in the Arab area. This afternoon Saddam Husayn hosted a banquet in honor of His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED BY HUSAYN

JN011843Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 August--Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn this evening received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Ciocara. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in the interest of the two Iraqi and Romanian peoples. They also exchanged views with regard to various current international issues. The meeting was attended by RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ciocara arrived in Baghdad last Saturday.

Meets With Housing Minister

JN021117Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 August--Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and housing and construction minister, received here today Mr Gheorghe Ciocara, Romanian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the members of the delegation accompanying him.

During this meeting the discussion dealt with the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the subject of cooperation in the field of housing and construction as well as the possibility of Romanian firms participating in the implementation of housing projects in Iraq.

Economic Cooperation Pact

JN021843Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 August--Iraq and Romania this evening signed joint minutes on economic, technical and trade cooperation between the two countries. The joint minutes are the result of the third session of the joint Iraqi-Romanian committee which concluded today.

The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister. They were signed on the Romanian side by Gheorghe Cioara, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

The joint minutes cover the development of cooperation in economic and technical spheres and the training of Iraqi agricultural cadres. They also cover expansion of trade between the two countries. [passage indistinct]

Visit Concludes

JN030914Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0813 GMT 3 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 August--Gheorghe Cioara, Romanian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the members of the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq.

Speaking before his departure, the Romanian minister said that his visit will greatly contribute to strengthening bilateral relations and widening the scope of trade and economic exchange between Iraq and Romania.

Cioara said that the visit has given him the opportunity to acquaint himself with the achievements made by the 17 July Revolution under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party in developing the national economy and raising the standard of living.

The Romanian delegation was seen off at the airport by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister; Dr Mukarram Jamal al-Talabani, minister of transport; and 'Ubaydallah al-Barzani, minister of state.

INA REPORTS ON TRIAL OF PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

JN021238Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 August--Dr Sultan 'Abd al-Qadir, president of the Arab people's court, has declared that the verdict to be issued by the court against Anwar as-Sadat will be left to the Arab people to carry out.

Addressing a press conference here today, 'Abd al-Qadir said that a verdict issued after such trials is essentially a moral one. The court has nothing to do with the results. 'Abd al-Qadir also explained that the adjournment of the trial until 19 November was for the purpose of allowing the defense counsel ample time to examine the evidence and bill of indictment.

Chief Prosecutor Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aal said at the press conference that important secret documents will be presented to the court condemning As-Sadat and his capitulatory line with regard to the central issue--Palestine. Dr 'Abd al-'Aal also said that numerous witnesses will testify before the court.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD LEAVES AMMAN FOLLOWING 1-DAY VISIT

JN021225Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this morning following a 1-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, Prince Fahd met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials. He held talks on developments in the area and efforts to bolster Arab solidarity.

CABINET APPROVES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PRC

JN021606Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] At its meeting today the Council of Ministers, chaired by 'Adnan Abu 'Udah, acting prime minister and minister of information, approved the trade agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the People's Republic of China initialed on 20 July.

The agreement stipulates the support, development and increase of trade between the two countries and the opening of fairs devoted to national production in the respective countries.

ARMORED UNIT CARRIES OUT EXERCISE WITH LIVE AMMUNITION

JN020920Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Aug 78 p 1 JN

[Text] The day before yesterday an armored unit of the Jordanian Armed Forces carried out an exercise with live ammunition in which various ground and air support and logistics forces participated. The units participating in the exercise, which lasted several days, carried out drills on siege and outflanking operations, counteroffensive operations, destruction of mock fortified positions and combat operations under conditions of the enemy's use of biological and chemical warfare.

The exercise was carried out under the control of the General Staff Command and was supervised by the chief of staff and his aides for operations and planning.

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LEBANON

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PRIME MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, TALKS TO REPORTERS

NC021140Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At the conclusion of the cabinet meeting at 1330, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made a statement in which he said: The discussions at today's cabinet meeting and at the working meeting preceding it centered on the situation connected with the army's entry into the south. The government intends to make all-out efforts, contacts and diplomatic endeavors in order to remove the difficulties confronting the army in carrying out its mission in the south.

Asked whether there is any possibility of the [UN] Security Council being asked to look into the matter in the event the endeavors being carried out by the government fail, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: Anything is possible.

Asked about the existence of new measures on this level, the prime minister replied: In fact, we have nothing to announce.

To another question, Prime Minister al-Huss affirmed that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will come to Beirut tomorrow, adding that this has been definitely confirmed.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

NC030813Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1035 today, President Elias Sarkis received Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who was accompanied by Syrian Chief of Staff Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus attended. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss joined the meeting at 1050.

The question of the army's entry into the south and the security situation in the capital are expected to head the subjects which will be discussed with the Syrian foreign minister.

AMBASSADOR TO UN TUWAYNI LEAVES FOR NEW YORK

NC022020Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, left Beirut for New York today to discuss with UN officials the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, now that Lebanon has started implementing this resolution.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

NC022022Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] This evening at the house of Engineer Hani Salam, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with a delegation representing the Palestinian command. The delegation included PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Permanent Delegate to UN Basil 'Aql, Abu al-Lutf, Abu al-Walid and Abu Jihad. Hani Salam also attended the meeting.

The 2-hour discussions dealt with developments in the south, particularly the question of insuring the wise entry of the Lebanese Army into the area. The discussions also dealt with Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

VOL: PHALANGIST PARTY TO HOLD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

NC021213Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un were in contact this morning to discuss the current security and political situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, has contacted the Phalangist leader to review some current affairs and events in the Lebanese arena.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil also chaired a preparatory meeting with party information and administrative officials today. They discussed the formation of the emergency committee which had been proposed at previous meetings. The conferees discussed the objectives of the committee and its role in various fields. It was decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Political Bureau of the party at 1200 Thursday to discuss the general situation in Lebanon.

PSP LEADER JUNBLATT MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN021810Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt met yesterday with Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov. During the meeting the discussion revolved around current developments on all local, Arab and international levels.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT CALLS FOR EXPELLING MAJOR HADDAD

JN022106Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 August--The Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Progressive Parties and Forces has called on the Lebanese authority to adopt a clear stand toward Sa'id Haddad and Sami Shidyah, their forces and militia. The council called on the Lebanese authority to expel them from the army because of their cooperation with the Zionist enemy.

In a statement issued this evening the council declared that adoption of a firm stand is dictated by the necessity of taking away from Israel the basic pretext it is using to carry out its aggressive plans against Lebanon's sovereignty and security.

'ARAFAT'S FORCES STORM REJECTIONIST OFFICES IN N. LEBANON

JN02213Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 August--Yasir 'Arafat's elements supported by large units of the deterrent forces belonging to the Damascus regime managed to overrun the Al-Baddawi camp 10 km north of Tripoli this afternoon after a ferocious battle with Palestinian rejectionist groups. More than 50 people of the camp were killed or injured in the battle. 'Arafat's elements arrested a great number of the members of rejectionist groups after storming their offices in the camp. These offices had been the scene of fierce battles since last night.

Meanwhile the commanders of the Palestinian resistance held a meeting this afternoon and decided to form a committee to go to the Al-Baddawi camp to release the detainees and to return the offices that had been stormed to the rejectionist organizations.

An INA correspondent in northern Lebanon has learned that the fighting has moved to Nahr al-Barid camp. He further says that military action is being prepared by 'Arafat's elements, backed by the deterrent forces belonging to the Damascus regime, to storm the offices of the rejectionist groups in the camp.

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LEBANON

BEIRUT RADIO ON SITUATION IN BEIRUT, SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC030725Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Comparative calm returned to the southern suburbs of Beirut this morning after the tension which prevailed in the area last night as a result of intermittent shelling.

The Arab Deterrent Forces Command issued a statement last night saying that they are continuing to deal with the situation. The statement was made after several shells fell in the western area of the capital.

The situation in the south remains uncertain pending the result of international diplomatic contacts concerning the entry of Lebanese Army forces into the border area. These contacts have been undertaken by Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations Ghassan Tuwayni. He left Beirut for the United Nations yesterday, carrying the government's instructions on how to deal with this issue. Political and diplomatic contacts on this subject are expected to be resumed in Beirut today.

AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT ON ARMY MOVE SOUTH

NC030736Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Statement made 3 August by Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss--read by announcer]

[Text] In the present delicate circumstances, when the Lebanese Army moving south is meeting Israeli resistance masquerading behind some local groups, national duty dictates that everyone should rally around the government and support it in the fundamental step it is taking. It is hoped that this will be the first step toward the solution of Lebanon's southern issue.

The step the government has taken to restore its authority and sovereignty in the southern area--a step which brings the homeland into confrontation with aggressive forces and legitimacy into confrontation with illegitimacy--must unite the ranks of the Lebanese in supporting the government's initiative in the hope that this initiative will bring about a relaxation in the general political and security situation in the country and subsequently end the whirlpool in which Lebanon continues to revolve.

VOL ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO END CRISIS IN SOUTH

NC030701Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The United States and France have intervened diplomatically in the Lebanese-Israeli crisis caused by the shelling of the military force moving south. The force has stopped in Kawkaba, inside the UNIFIL operations area.

Western diplomacy has succeeded in reducing the Lebanese-Israeli differences on this subject. Israel has agreed that the military force may continue to advance under certain conditions.

It appears that the Lebanese Government has done well by resorting to local and foreign diplomacy. The government informed all the big powers and Security Council members and the UN secretary general of its intention to send the military unit to the south, as a first step in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 on the south and the Lebanese State's sovereignty over Lebanese territory.

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LEBANON

FRENCH DEPUTY UNIFIL COMMANDER LEAVES FOR PARIS

NC301226Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 30 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 30 July--UN sources have said that the French deputy commander of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, General Cuq, has left for Paris. Well-informed sources said the French Government has summoned the general for consultations regarding the UN forces, particularly the French forces, and regarding the entry of the Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon.

AN-NAHAR SAYS LEBANON REJECTS ISRAELI CONDITIONS

NC030942Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0190 GMT 3 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 3 August--Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut said today that the United States has advised the Lebanese Government not to raise the question of Israeli intervention to prevent the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south before the UN Security Council at present.

The sources said that Lebanon will intensify its international contacts to exert pressure on Israel to make it halt its interference, which is obstructing the implementation of the plan for the Lebanese Army's entry into the south.

The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR reports today that President Ilyas Sarkis has asked the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Parker, with whom he met yesterday, to communicate to the U.S. Government Lebanon's complete rejection of the Israeli conditions which the ambassador had conveyed to the Lebanese Government the day before yesterday.

The Lebanese president has also asked the ambassador to inform his government of Lebanon's desire that the United States exert pressure on Israel to make it abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. These resolutions provide for the Lebanese Army's participation with the UNIFIL in the maintenance of peace in southern Lebanon.

UNIFIL FORCES IN KAWKABA SUBJECTED TO FIRE

NC021203Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Asked about the security situation in southern Lebanon, an official at the UN information office in Beirut has stated the following:

A report from UNIFIL headquarters in southern Lebanon has confirmed that the UNIFIL forces in Kawkaba, which is in the eastern sector of the UNIFIL area of operations, were subjected to concentrated artillery shelling last night. The shells fell near the positions of the Nepalese contingent and one of the positions of the Norwegian contingent sustained a direct hit.

The command of the UNIFIL forces held urgent contacts in order to stop the shelling and calm the situation. This was achieved late last night. The UN spokesman added that no new reports were issued on the security situation in the area this morning.

LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND 5TH BRANCH ISSUES STATEMENT

NC021204Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] A short while ago, the Army Command 5th Branch issued the following statement:

The army force in Kawkaba was subjected to concentrated shelling by Israeli 175 mm guns from 1030 until 1130 today. This shelling resulted in the wounding of one soldier. Military movements in preparation for aggressive operations against our forces in the south have also been observed.

ISRAEL: SHELLING OF KAWKABA ENCAMPMENT CONTINUES

TA021115Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Intermittent artillery and light arms fire could be heard this morning from the region of Kawkaba in southern Lebanon where the Lebanese expeditionary force is encamped.

The spokesman of the militias, Francis Rizq, told our correspondent Yehezkel Hame'iri that his men had noticed this morning that soldiers of the expeditionary force were fleeing north. He maintains that the Syrians are firing on those who are fleeing in order to prevent this. Rizq also claimed that members of the militias had noticed from their observation posts that reinforcements were coming in from the north.

One of the senior militia commanders, Maj Sa'd Haddad, arrived in Metulla at noon and told our correspondent that he does not believe that the Lebanese battalion will try to move forward forcibly in the face of the opposition.

MAJOR HADDAD PRESSURES UNIFIL UNITS TO WITHDRAW

JN021348Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 August--UN sources in Beirut said that Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of the rightist militia in southern Lebanon, has sent a warning to the UNIFIL forces to withdraw from the suburbs of the town of Kawkaba. He threatened that he would shell again the area he hit earlier today if the UNIFIL units remain in their positions.

These sources pointed out that the UNIFIL rejected the rightist warning and said that they will return the fire. These sources said earlier that six shells landed on the positions of the Nepalese contingent near the town of Kawkaba in the eastern sector of the southern area.

ISRAEL: MILITIAS WILL NOT LET ARMY PASS THROUGH ENCLAVES

TA021429Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] Lebanese militia spokesmen emphasized this morning that they will not accept a demand to allow the Lebanese expeditionary force to pass through their enclaves in order to deploy along the Israeli border. Foreign correspondents who met with them in Metulla said that they have ceremoniously vowed to fight against that intention to the last man.

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LEBANON

Christian Spokesman Comments

TAO21640Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Syrians wish to close the door between Israel and the Christians, the spokesman of the Christians in southern Lebanon told our correspondent. Francis Rizq, the spokesman of the Christians in southern Lebanon told our correspondent Raz Livnat about civilian life in southern Lebanon and about the reasons for the Christians' objection to the entry of the Lebanese Army's force [into the Christian enclave]. [begin recording]

[Question] What is the situation at present as far as civilian life in southern Lebanon is concerned, now that the battalion of the Lebanese Army is at the gate and [Major Sa'd] Haddad is not permitting it to enter?

[Answer] Now life is good. The citizens can live. We have everything and we do not need anything. We have food, we have everything. However, you know, the roads are closed now; the workers and the farmers cannot buy and sell.

[Question] Why aren't you, the Christians here in southern Lebanon, interested in having the Lebanese force enter the area?

[Answer] You know that we are Lebanese and our soldiers and officers were heroes and maintained security within our villages. It is not necessary that we have a new army. Why don't they send an army via another route? They have the Ad-Damur-An-Nabatiyah route and there the terrorists are sitting. Why don't they send their army via the An-Nabatiyah way so that they can destroy the terrorists there and be (?heroes). It is not necessary for them to be in our villages, and you know that that army is pro-Syrian and you know that Syria has long wanted to shut the gate between us--between southern Lebanon, the Christians in southern Lebanon--and Israel. Afterward they will infiltrate that [Lebanese] force to destroy the Christians and carry out genocide, as they did in Beirut. And you know, that gate will remain the honor of the Christians, their fortune, their life. That is why we are not letting them come and shut that door. [end recording]

ARMY STATEMENT ON CONTINUED ISRAELI FIRE

NC021846Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] This evening, the 5th Branch of the Army Command issued the following:

Since 1800, army positions in Kawkaba have been subjected to concentrated Israeli shelling from 155mm and 175mm guns at the rate of two rounds every 3 minutes. The fact that our forces are practicing self-restraint and are not returning the fire is a result of the complete coordination with the UNIFIL command which believes that returning the fire can have negative repercussions on the UNIFIL units' mission in our dear south.

ARMY UNIT REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTING TO WITHDRAW FROM KAWKABA

NC021712Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 2 Aug 78 NC

[Text] AFP quotes a military correspondent in Metulla as saying that the Lebanese Army unit in Kawkaba was withdrawing northward but that the Syrian force which reinforced its presence in the Al-Hasbani area opened fire on the Lebanese force to prevent it from withdrawing from Kawkaba.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL TO SUE SYRIAN INFORMATION MEDIA

HC311503Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 31 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] In a statement to the press today, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil warned against the consequences of misleading information put out by news media and its repercussions on the relations among the peoples and states involved. He also called attention to the deterioration of the security situation because the citizens are now apprehensive about passing through the places where security forces are stationed in order to preserve security.

With regard to the news media putting out misleading information, the head of the Lebanese Phalangist Party said: It is indeed regrettable that the Syrian information media have become so irresponsible and reckless that they have moved from putting out misleading information to attempting to falsify facts and color them in a way expressive of a level and hate incompatible with the spirit and quality of information.

For our part, and in view of the tendentious campaigns which are being waged against us, we will submit a complaint to the Syrian courts themselves against these rabid campaigns, because these campaigns portend great evil and harm for future relations between our two peoples and states. Furthermore, these campaigns pursue the line of inciting and dividing the Lebanese people and injecting them with the spirit of division and hatred, in addition to dividing the Lebanese and the Syrians.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil added: Through this suit, which will soon be filed, we will test the Syrian courts, now that we have tested the Syrian information media. By taking this step, we do not want to defend ourselves, because we basically refuse to have any one issue us with certificates of national good conduct.

SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETING IN DAMASCUS

JN021828Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 2 August--The higher joint Syrian-Jordanian committee began talks at 1900 today under Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Participating in the talks on the Syrian side were Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Shutaywi Sayfu, industry minister; Muhammad Ghubash, minister of supply and internal trade; Dr Salim Yasin, transport minister; Dr Sadiq al-Ayyubi, finance minister; Dr George Hurnaniyah, minister of state for planning affairs; Rif'at [name indistinct], governor of the Central Bank of Syria; and 'Abd al-Karim as-Sabbagh, Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Participating in the talks on the Jordanian side were Sulayman 'Arar, interior minister; Engineer 'Ali as-Suhaymat, Transport minister; Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade; Muhammad ad-Dabbas, finance minister; Dr Muhammad Sa'id an-Nabuluci, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Nabih an-Nimr, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; and a number of officials and technicians in the ministries of the two fraternal countries.

Further Report

JN022225Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi this evening held a banquet in honor of Mudar Badran, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the delegation accompanying him at the Ash-Sharq Club in Damascus.

The higher joint Syrian-Jordanian committee began talks at 1900 today under Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. During the talks, the agenda of the eighth meeting of the committee was reviewed. The meeting also reviewed the minutes of the joint ministerial committee assigned to study and adopt investment programs for the joint companies. The minutes were signed on 16 July. The meeting reviewed and followed up the activities of the main committees and the steps achieved concerning implementation in all spheres. It also discussed the plans for and the activities of the following joint companies: the joint overland transport company; the joint maritime transport company; the joint industrial company and the joint industrial free zone company. Several recommendations in these fields were adopted. The higher committee will continue its meetings tomorrow morning to continue the talks.

Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi welcomed the guest delegation at the beginning of the talks, stressing that the committee will carry out its tasks in the service of the two fraternal countries with the aim of achieving economic integration, which is the goal of every Arab citizen in general and of Jordanian and Syrian citizens in particular. By achieving such integration the objective of Arab unity can be realized. Al-Halabi added that continuation of the meetings would strengthen with better achievements the march toward implementation of the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn.

Concluding his welcoming speech, Al-Halabi expressed his pride at what has been achieved by the two fraternal countries. He added that what has been achieved makes us proud and that is something great. Mudar Badran, the prime minister of fraternal Jordan, praised the brotherly relations existing between the two fraternal countries in his reply to the speech of welcome. He stressed persistence to go forward on the march undertaken by Syria and Jordan.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES CHAD LIBERATION FRONT LEADER

LD021330Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received in his office at noon today Chairman of Chad National Liberation Front Goukouni Quedsi. The meeting was attended by Engineer 'Abdullah as-Salih, secretary of industry.

JALLUD DEPARTS FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC

LD022352Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud left tonight for Peking on an official visit lasting several days at the invitation of the Chinese Government. Staff Major Jallud will be accompanied during the visit by an economic delegation and the foreign, electricity and housing secretaries.

MALDIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD021346Y Tripoli JANA in English 0916 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, August 2, JANA--Mr Fathulla Jameel, foreign minister of the Republic of Maldives, arrived at Tripoli international airport yesterday afternoon on a visit to the Jamahiriyah to last several days.

The visiting minister was received by an under-secretary at the Foreign Secretariat.

MAURITANIA

NIGHTLY CURFEW SHORTENED BY 4 HOURS

LD022138Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Aug 78 LD

[Summary] The National Security Administration announced in a statement issued tonight that from now on the curfew is in force from midnight until 0600. Previously it was from midnight until 1000.

IDF CLOSES GOOD FENCE CROSSING AT METULLA

TA030740Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] For the first time since tension began in southern Lebanon passage through the good fence at Metulla was stopped yesterday morning at the order of the IDF stationed in the area. The passage was closed to reporters, photographers and tourists to prevent gatherings around the place and because of fear that the Lebanese force in Kawkaba might open fire in the direction of the militias in the enclave. It is still unclear whether the passage will be opened today for visitors and correspondents.

MILITARY SOURCES DENY SHELLING LEBANESE FORCE

TA021314Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Beirut national radio has reported a statement by the Lebanese Army spokesman that this morning IDF artillery concentrated fire at the expeditionary force in the region of Kawkaba in the south. The Lebanese announcement also mentioned army movements aimed at preparing the ground for acts of hostility against the Lebanese forces in the south.

Our correspondent was told by Israeli military sources that there is no truth in these reports.

ISRAEL TENDS TOWARD APPROVAL OF DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE

TA021303Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Aug 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] There is a tendency in Israel to approve transit of the Lebanese battalion of the "Arab Lebanese Army Vanguard" through the area of the Christian enclave, provided the transit does not endanger the units under Maj Sa'd Haddad's command.

It emerged after assessments and considerations that under certain circumstances the UN forces could be assisted in their efforts to prevail upon Major Haddad to allow the transit of the force. Israel can neither ignore the sovereignty of the Lebanese Government in the southern region, nor the fact that it was this government which dispatched the force.

By virtue of this reasoning it is unlikely that at this stage there will be any intervention in what is happening in southern Lebanon, although developments there are being followed vigilantly in the north of Israel.

The Lebanese battalion has been reinforced with an additional company and the chief of staff of the Lebanese Army has rejected a compromise proposal from Major Haddad to enable a part of the expeditionary force to transit via a circumvential road.

Diplomatic sources, particularly from the United States and France, continued their pressure yesterday on Israel to facilitate the transit of the Lebanese battalion through the enclave. For that purpose U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. Various elements in the U.S. Embassy were in contact yesterday with the Foreign Ministry concerning this matter. There were also contacts between the French Embassy and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

According to reports reaching Israel yesterday, a large part of the Syrian force which had escorted the Lebanese unit had left the area and returned to its base some 15 km to the north.

RIZQ INTERVIEWED ON HOPES FOR HELP FROM ISRAEL

TA021812Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Since the beginning of the week a battalion of the Lebanese Army has been stationed in the Kawkaba area in southern Lebanon. Tension increased today after representatives of the Christian militias reported the arrival of reinforcements which, they claim, came from the north to aid the battalion whose way south has been blocked. The representatives of the militias also reported the flight of some of the battalion and the roadblocks set up by the terrorists and fire from the Syrians who seek to prevent the retreat of the battalion's soldiers and to force them to fulfill their mission and break the Christian lines in the direction of the enclaves.

Our correspondent in the north, Yehezqel Hame'iri, talked with the spokesman of the militias in southern Lebanon, Francis Rizq, about this as well as the militia's reaction to reports from Jerusalem about Israel's agreement to let the Lebanese expeditionary force pass. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Rizq, what is happening in the field?

[Answer] We are not permitting them to pass, we do not want them to pass through Marj 'Uyun. We are a Lebanese force, we can maintain our own security and defense and we do not want to have new soldiers. They can go some other place. Why don't they solve the problems in Beirut if they have the power to do so? Why don't they oppose the terrorists? Why don't they oppose the Syrians, who are carrying out genocide in Beirut? Why are they coming here?

[Question] What is your decision, Mr Rizq?

[Answer] Our decision is that they will not enter, they will not come via Marj 'Uyun, they have an alternate way.

[Question] What will happen if they enter forcibly?

[Answer] There will be war. We will not let them enter. I am sure that our soldiers are guarding the situation, are watching in their positions with their arms ready and are waiting for them. If they want to come by force, we are here and will not let them enter by force. I do not think they are strong enough to fight us.

[Question] Do you think you are strong enough to oppose them?

[Answer] I think we have the desire to oppose them, and--with God's help--enough strength.

[Question] Aren't you afraid that the Syrians will come to their aid as well?

[Answer] I think that the Syrians are backing them and that there are among them soldiers and officers from Syria. That is why we have to take care and watch, and we must be strong.

[Question] How do you explain that, despite everything, in that battalion, among its men--there are also Christian soldiers?

[Answer] If there are Christian soldiers among them I would advise them to join us, to come to us, to help us fight against the terrorists and the Syrians who want control over Lebanon.

[Question] From time to time you fire several shells. What is the purpose of that?

[Answer] To tell them that they cannot enter through here. After they understand--we want them to understand that they may not enter through here. [as heard] Here we number more Lebanese than they do.

[Question] According to reports from Jerusalem, Israel is not opposed to the entry of these forces into southern Lebanon. What is your reaction?

[Answer] I know one thing: Israel does not want to, and cannot, deny its own principles and it has long promised to safeguard our security and defense. I believe that it will help us and will also secure us, since it cannot, and does not want to, betray us.

[Question] Is it true that Israel--the IDF--has participated in your firing against the Lebanese force?

[Answer] Not yet. [end recording]

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REMAINS CONFUSING

TA021617Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The situation in southern Lebanon and the confusion around the passage of the Lebanese battalion is growing more and more complex and involved. It now seems that the Lebanese battalion stationed at Kawkaba is in fact encircled, without being able to move. The Christian militias are blocking it from the south while the terrorists and the Syrians are not permitting its movement northward.

Maj Sa'd Haddad, the commander of the Christian forces in the south, today called on Prime Minister Menahem Begin to support his decision not to allow the Lebanese battalion to deploy in the south. However, our correspondent has learned that the commanders of the Christian militias will agree to let the Lebanese battalion pass under the conditions Israel has proposed.

The commanders of the Christian militias will agree to let the Lebanese battalion pass through the salient under the conditions acceptable to Israel. Military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi says that Israel's willingness to let the battalion pass was contingent upon several conditions which would insure the Christians' safety in the salient. [begin recording]

For its part, Israel is prepared to let the Lebanese battalion pass from the Kawkaba area to Tibnin via the Christian enclave only under certain conditions which will completely insure the Christian sovereignty over the salient. These conditions state: First, the Lebanese force will not pass through the salient in armored vehicles but only in light vehicles such as trucks and jeeps or on foot. Secondly, the force will not pass via the main roads in the enclave but on side routes. There are several such detours in the enclave which are mainly military routes, and some of them are dirt roads. Third, the force will not pass as one unit but in small units, piecemeal.

There are grounds to believe that the commanders of the Christian militias, Haddad and Shidyaq, will accept these conditions as the basis for a compromise which will enable the passage of the Lebanese battalion to the Tibnin area.

It seems that the Israeli willingness to let the battalion pass is due to the fact that the Syrian company which accompanied the Lebanese to Kawkaba has returned to its base.

In the last 24 hours, the United States has asked Israel to persuade the Christians to allow the battalion to pass so that Security Council Resolution 425 is fulfilled and Lebanese sovereignty over southern Lebanon is returned. [end recording]

The commander of the Christian Forces in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'd Haddad, today approached correspondents in Metulla and asked them to publish two cables he has sent: one to U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the other to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Major Haddad called on Begin not to succumb to pressures exerted on him from various places in the world concerning the situation of the Christians in southern Lebanon. He told the prime minister that he decided that the pro-Syrian Army stationed at present in Kawkaba would under no circumstances be allowed to enter the Christian enclaves or even pass through them. In his message to the U.S. president, Haddad says that Syria's intention is to annex Lebanon to its territory. Correspondent Raz Livnat reports from the north on the developments in southern Lebanon:

Another round of contacts between Major Haddad and the commanders of the Christian force stationed in Kawkaba conducted under the auspices of UNIFIL failed at noon. Major Haddad approached the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister by cable 2 hours ago. He emotionally explained his positions. Haddad did so after having read the evening newspapers which reported that Israel's position is to let the Lebanese force pass in the area if it does not harm Haddad and his men. Since he claims that they cannot pass without harming his soldiers, he approached the heads of the two countries.

The spokesmen of the southern Lebanon militias, Nasib al-Hamra, said today that if Israel is so interested in allowing the Lebanese force to pass, it should let it pass through Qiryat Shemona. He added that the militias have set up suicide units which will go into operation the moment the Lebanese force advances toward the Christian enclaves.

Since noon quiet has prevailed in the Kawkaba and enclaves areas. A UN supply convoy passed through Har Dov instead of through Metulla, because the militia soldiers blocked the way through the enclaves under their control.

JERUSALEM DOUBTS UMM KHUSHAYB MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE

TA021221Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] According to information now on hand in the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry, the meeting at Umm Khushayb between the foreign and defense ministers of Israel and Egypt will not take place. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will come here on Saturday night in order to go to Egypt on Monday and then return to Washington.

Next Sunday Vance will have talks and a working lunch with the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. He will also have a private talk with the prime minister. Roving ambassador Alfred Atherton is due to return here today. He will meet with Begin, Yadin, Dayan and Weizman as well as with several aides. In the course of that meeting he will report on his talks with Anwar as-Sadat.

Despite the fact that the prevailing belief in the cabinet is that As-Sadat will stick to his refusal to hold the scheduled meeting at Umm Khushayb--unless Israel declares its willingness for a total withdrawal--one differing assessment could be heard from a senior cabinet source last night. According to this assessment, Cyrus Vance would not be coming to the Middle East just to fail in his task of bringing about a rapprochement between Egypt and Israel. [paragraph continues]

The senior source adds two further points to this assessment: the Saudi fear of a Soviet encirclement is still acute, and As-Sadat's desire to get Sinai back has not yet diminished.

With such data in mind, the source estimates that As-Sadat will eventually respond to pressures by Vance to hold an additional meeting between Israeli and Egyptian representatives, although it is doubted that he will agree to hold the talks at Umm Khushayb as early as 9 August, as was originally scheduled.

Political observers said last night that at every stage of the negotiations As-Sadat is wont to renege whenever a prospect for a breakthrough seems to be emerging. The observers recalled that at the meeting in Ismailia Begin and As-Sadat had agreed on a formula for a declaration of principles, but later the Egyptian president reneged. A special effort by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in the small hours of the night to overcome the gaps in the Israeli and Egyptian versions came to nought. At the Jerusalem conference real progress was made in the formulation of the declaration of principles, but As-Sadat suddenly instructed his delegation to return to Egypt.

An understanding had been reached between 'Ezer Weizman and As-Sadat regarding the future of Judaea and Samaria (at the meeting in April), which could well serve as a basis for an agreement, but the next day As-Sadat said that "after having consulted with a Palestinian delegation" (it was proved in an examination undertaken by Israel that no such delegation had at that time been in Egypt), he had to retract his agreement. At the Leeds Castle talks, Dayan mentioned the proximity between the Israeli and Egyptian positions on several principal points concerning Judaea and Samaria. The U.S. delegation at the Leeds Castle was encouraged by Dayan's approach, putting much hope in further negotiations at Umm Khushayb, and now As-Sadat states his opposition to them.

The observers explain the withdrawal in As-Sadat's approach by the pressure of Saudi Arabia which, they say, is particularly striving to close the rift in the Arab world.

ATHERTON, MINISTERS MEET; RESULTS DISCUSSED

TAO21750Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Political correspondent Shalom Qital has learned that in the course of the talk that took place this afternoon between special U.S. envoy Alfred Atherton and Israel's ministerial team, the envoy said that in his estimation As-Sadat is currently under pressure from the Arab world and hence Egypt's negative position with reference to the continuation of the negotiations. Our correspondent has also learned that the prime minister said during the talk that he is not commenting on attacks made on him by Egypt and that his restraint constitutes one of the signs that Israel expects the talks to continue.

The talk with Ambassador Atherton ended at the prime minister's Knesset office about an hour ago. The U.S. ambassador told correspondents at the end of the meeting that now it is necessary to wait for the consultations which will be held by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Israel and in Egypt in an effort to renew the direct negotiations. Atherton confirmed that there is no change in Egypt's position and that so far it looks like Atherton will visit Israel and Egypt separately and that no tripartite meeting will take place.

At the end of the meeting, Begin said that Israel insists on having a tripartite meeting as proposed at Leeds Castle. We hope, he said, that Secretary Cyrus Vance will, on his arrival, succeed in persuading Egypt to hold a meeting.

More on Meeting

TAO21751Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The talk between U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton and the prime minister and the ministerial team ended an hour ago. The talk took place in the prime minister's office. There is no change in Egypt's position, Atherton says, and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who will arrive on Saturday night, will visit Israel and Egypt separately and there will not be a tripartite meeting as had been proposed during the Leeds Castle talks. Our political correspondent reports on the meeting with the prime minister and the ministerial team:

Alfred Atherton's mission did not bring Egypt to the table of the direct negotiations with Israel. Nevertheless, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive on Saturday evening for separate talks here and in Egypt. This is the essence of things at the end of the round of talks held by Alfred Atherton in the Middle East. Today, at the end of a meeting with the roving ambassador, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said: [begin recording]

Ambassador Atherton, after having returned from Alexandria and his talks with President as-Sadat and Foreign Minister Kamil, was courteous. He reported to us on the content of these talks. He did not receive a positive answer regarding the problem or the possibility of holding a tripartite meeting between Israel, Egypt and the United States. We have announced that we insist that tripartite meeting be held as proposed. We are awaiting the arrival of Mr Vance on Saturday evening. On Sunday at 1000 the first meeting of the two delegations--the American and the Israeli--will take place and in the afternoon we shall continue the meetings. We hope that perhaps the secretary of state will be able to persuade the Egyptians to hold the tripartite meeting. So far, the Egyptian position regarding that meeting is negative, while, on the other hand, in Israel the position is positive. [end recording]

A similar evaluation was voiced by Atherton as well: The situation has not changed since the State Department spokesman's announcement in Washington, Atherton says. As will be recalled, the spokesman expressed disappointment over the fact that Egypt is not joining the tripartite meeting.

How would you, then define the situation at present, Atherton was asked. [begin recording]

[Atherton--in English] No, I'm not going to characterize this at all. Well, we are looking forward to the consultations that the secretary will have with both Prime Minister Begin and President as-Sadat, as he has already said, about ways in which it will be possible to keep the peace process going and I think that we should leave it at that for now. Thank you very much.

Atherton said in the talk itself--not in front of the microphones, but to Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Ministers Yadin, Dayan and Weizman--that the Arab world is exerting pressure on As-Sadat and that is probably the reason why he is not interested in continuing the direct talks at present.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS, LEBANON

TAO22203Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said tonight that he was surprised at what had happened to Saudi Arabia's moderacy, which was so highly praised in the United States following the Tripartite aircraft deal.

Where is that moderacy, the prime minister asked, these days, when Prince Fahd is making efforts to get President as-Sadat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad closer to each other?

The prime minister was speaking at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel at a dinner marking the end of the bonds convention. He said that Ambassador Atherton could not have brought good tidings from Egypt since the Egyptians were not prepared for tripartite negotiations with the participation of Israel, Egypt and the United States. If we accept conditions before the talks, what will we discuss during the talks? As-Sadat is announcing that he is prepared to secure our safety. Can we rely on that?

Addressing President as-Sadat, the prime minister said: Three times you have tried to take our lives and failed, and this is also what will happen in the future. Don't threaten us with war. When we are attacked, we shall defend ourselves and sometimes, while defending ourselves, we do it by attacking, so it is better that you sit with us around the negotiating table.

The prime minister said that after 6 months of difficulties in explaining Israel's position in the negotiations the truth is slowly coming to light. He said this referring to the U.S. position and said: I must be cautious. I do not know what will happen tomorrow, but we have heard what the State Department spokesman said.

Referring to the events in Lebanon, Begin said that only thanks to the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East can the Christian minority in Lebanon survive.

SHARON ASKED TO DETAIL CABINET PLANS FOR SETTLEMENT

TA021900Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee chairman, MK Moshe Arens, approached the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, to report to the members of the committee about the cabinet's plans concerning the settlements in the territories. Arens approached Sharon after receiving a sharp letter from Alignment MK Yosi Sarid in which the latter criticized the cabinet for not reporting to the committee about settlement plans as had been promised not long ago. Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that following the publication of MK Sarid's letter to the defense minister, in which he protested censorship which--in his opinion--is arbitrarily imposed on information that does not include military information but is merely public and political information, DMC Knesset members approached the DMC ministers, asking for more details about the cabinet's decisions concerning the settlement issue.

Our correspondent has learned that two of the DMC ministers said that they did not know anything about that matter. MK Shem'el Toledano wished to convene the faction to discuss the matter.

On the other hand, Minister Ari'el Sharon told our correspondent that the publication of information about the settlements in the territories would be harmful to the country at this time. Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has details on what is happening in the affair: [begin recording]

MK Yosi Sarid has learned of details of the cabinet's plans on the settlement subject, facts which have astonished him.

In his words, the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee have recently been promised to receive a running briefing on the cabinet's plans concerning the settlements in the territories. In his letter to the committee chairman, Sarid claims that the cabinet is withholding information from the members of the committee on this delicate issue.

Around noon, when the military censor prohibited the publication of Sarid's letter to Arens, MK Sarid approached the defense minister in a sharp letter. In his letter to the defense minister, MK Sarid says that the information about which he approached Arens does not include any security information but rather information of a clearly public and political nature. The military censors, who are intended to stop the publication of state security secrets, are making arbitrary use of authority and prohibiting the publication of an MK's expression on one of the central and vital issues in our lives which has no connection with security secrets.

MK Sarid asks the defense minister to order the censors to release the letter to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security chairman at once, even if the information included in it is "inconvenient for the cabinet."

At this point, may we point out that according to the law, the military censors prohibit the publication of any information given at the Ministerial Committees for Security Affairs and it is not at their discretion to decide whether these things are harmful to the state security or not.

In this affair--in which more is concealed than is known--the censors consequently deal not according to their discretion but according to the law which binds them.

The chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Charon, told me tonight that publishing the information rejected by the censors would be harmful to Israel at present.

MK SARID COMPLAINS ABOUT CENSORS' ACTIVITIES

TAO21214Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Aug 78 TA

[Text] This morning MK Yosi Sarid sent an urgent letter to the defense minister protesting against the military censors' prohibiting the publication of a letter sent earlier by Sarid to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that in the earlier letter the Knesset member had complained that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, of which he is a member, had not received information about the government's settlement plans.

In the letter to Minister 'Ezer Weizman, MK Sarid writes that the information that the censor has disqualified contains no security information but data of an obvious public and political nature. He accuses the security censor of making arbitrary use of its powers to disqualify the publication of remarks by a Knesset member on a central and essential issue in our lives.

MK Sarid called upon the defense minister to instruct the censors to immediately release his letter to his committee's chairman for publication.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI CHAIRS SUPREME COUNCIL OF MINISTERS 23 JULY SESSION

LDT022025Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Supreme Council of Ministers session was held at People's House for 2 hours from 1000 today under the chairmanship of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki. The council discussed a series of issues, which were then decided upon and endorsed for future action.

After a series of discussions of setting up a national computer board, it was decided that the board should henceforth be active within the framework of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Tourism and that it should be organized to function in an effective and beneficial manner.

Also, pertaining to the grant-in-aid of the U.S. development association with regard to the wheat project, it was decided that the aid should be accepted in principle and that discussions should take place with the source of the aid pertaining to an effective utilization of that project.

Similarly, Afghanistan's membership in the International Science Forum was approved as was the cultural agreement in the field of archaeology between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. The program of cultural and scientific cooperation between Afghanistan and the Republic of Iraq was also endorsed by the council.

The Supreme Council of Ministers also approved the dissolution of the timber enterprise and decided that the dissolution of the enterprise should be entrusted to the unit's dissolution board and that a commission composed of representatives from the Ministries of Defense, Interior, Planning and Trade should study the subject of forestry utilization and the supply of and trading in timber. A definitive report pertaining to ways of solving relevant problems should then be submitted to the Supreme Council of Ministers.

DEFENSE MINISTRY URGES KABUL CITIZENS TO OBSERVE CURFEW

LDT022040Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD

[Statement of minister of defense]

[Text] Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense respectfully informs Kabul citizens that they should observe curfew regulations after 2300 and that they should definitely refrain from moving about. Should the curfew be broken, the curfew breakers will be treated in accordance with martial law regulations. Should curfew breakers refuse to obey the orders of military patrols, they will be fired on and the responsibility thereof will be that of the curfew breakers. Sick people and their attendants will be given consideration by military patrols on duty.

INDIA

ANANDA MARG CHIEF RELEASED ON BAIL 2 AUGUST

BK021251Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Aug 78 EK

[Text] Ananda Marg Chief Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar was released from the Patna Central Jail this afternoon. Mr Sarkar was granted bail in the (?Khelri) murder case last Monday. The then general secretary of the Ananda Marg, Acharya Swashewarananda Avadhoot, was also released along with Mr Sarkar.

Mr Sarkar, who was arrested in December 1971, has been acquitted in two murder cases. Five other murder cases are still pending against him, but he has been granted bail in all these cases.

PRESS EDITORIALS ASSESS BELGRADE NONALIGNED MEETING

BK021533Y Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 2 Aug 78 EK

[Text] At the conclusion of the nonaligned ministerial conference in Belgrade, the deliberations and conclusions of the conference were editorially covered in all the important newspapers on 1 August.

The TIMES OF INDIA, under the heading "The Belgrade Summit," wrote: "In sharp contrast to their record in the past, participants in the nonaligned summit conference at Belgrade have made no great efforts to sweep mutual differences under the carpet. Indeed, some of them seem to have gone out of their way to come to grips with contentious issues affecting not only individual member nations but the character of the movement itself. The group as a whole may not be very effective in tackling territorial and other disputes in Africa, Asia and elsewhere, but it has shown itself to be flexible enough to accommodate widely differing viewpoints without being torn apart."

The INDIAN EXPRESS, under the heading "Strains Among Nonaligned," wrote: "The endorsement in Belgrade by four score foreign ministers of the lengthy declaration of the non-aligned nations after the most contentious conference in the movement's history is not an inconsiderable achievement.

The decision to stick to Havana as the venue of the next summit in 1979 is wise, for any alteration would have implied a defeat for the movement and set a risky precedent. Ideological waves have started buffeting the nonaligned. Vajpayee's idea of a code of conduct is good...."

The HINDUSTAN TIMES, under the heading "Belgrade Meeting," said: "The Belgrade meeting has underlined the problem. It is for the Havana summit to go beyond the earlier summits in order to give solidarity. The practical institutional shape is lacking so far. A more determined attempt is needed at least in the matter of regional cooperation."

The NATIONAL HERALD, under the heading "To Havana," commented: "The main results of the Belgrade meeting of the foreign ministers of 86 nonaligned countries is that the next summit will be held in Havana next year as decided earlier, contrary to Western-inspired reports of a conflict between Cuba and some African countries. In Africa the main issue is between colonial or neocolonial forces and those fighting colonialism or neocolonialism. Cuba is only helping in the fight against colonialism or helping the forces of freedom."

NEPAL

ARYAL RETURNS FROM BELGRADE MEETING 2 AUGUST

BK021520Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 2 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Krishna Raj Aryal has said that the ministerial-level conference of the nonaligned nations at Belgrade has helped member countries to further reaffirm their faith in the nonaligned movement and the principles underlining it despite sharp differences among them.

Mr Aryal, who returned to Katmandu this morning from the conference, said that the meeting also brought to the surface the push and pull which the movement is passing through at present. Yet the nonaligned unity remains unharmed, the foreign minister added.

He stated that the charges and countercharges witnessed by the conference had unmistakable (?hints) of the member countries' commitment to the nonaligned movement.

The foreign minister said that it was also decided that problems among the nonaligned nations should be solved amicably and through mediation if it is necessary and nonaligned country itself should represent that [sentence as heard]. Besides, the need to speed up efforts to achieve a new international economic order as well as to realize cooperation among developing countries were also emphasized during the deliberations.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI 2 AUGUST

BK020908Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Mr B.P. Koirala, the former prime minister of Nepal, arrived in New Delhi early this morning from the United States where he had gone for treatment. Among those who received him at the airport were the president of the Janata Party, Mr Chandra Shekhar; the railway minister, Mr Madhu Dandavate; and some leaders of the banned Nepalese congress.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI GIVES DETAILS OF ATTACK ON IRAQI CONSULATE

BK021719Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Aug 78 BK

[Text] In Karachi this morning, two unidentified armed foreign nationals riding a motorcycle opened fire at the administrator of the Iraqi Consulate General who was entering the premises in his car. The administrator was injured and has been hospitalized. He is, however, reportedly out of danger.

The police guards on duty overpowered the assailants. One of the assailants was killed. The other, who received minor injury, was taken into custody. He is being interrogated.

One of the police guards on duty at the consulate was wounded and is in the hospital where he has been operated upon. The consul general himself and the other members of the consulate staff, who were present in the premises when the assault took place, were safe and unhurt.

The Pootomve registered the case under the relevant laws, and a thorough probe is being conducted.

SUPREME COURT PERMITS PRIVATE MEDICAL EXAM OF BHUTTO

BKO21434Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 2 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Rawalpindi, August 2 (AFP)--The Pakistan Supreme Court today allowed a medical examination of jailed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by his personal physician following statements by defence counsel that their client was gravely ill.

Mr Bhutto's chief counsel, former Attorney General Yahya Bakhtiar, said yesterday the former prime minister had passed blood through the nose twice.

The Supreme Court is hearing Mr Bhutto's appeal against the death sentence. He was convicted last March by the Lahore High Court for plotting a political murder in 1974.

State Counsel M.A. Rehman informed the court that Mr Bhutto had refused to be examined by the jail doctor or by a government medical specialist and added that the government had no objection to an examination by Mr Bhutto's personal physician in the presence of government doctors. The court gave permission for Mr Bhutto's physician to examine him in the presence of a government medical specialist and the jail superintendent and, if necessary, the jail medical officer. The nature of Mr Bhutto's illness will be known after the examination for which a date is yet to be fixed by the registrar of the Supreme Court.

The hearing of Mr Bhutto's appeal began on May 20 last, and the defence is now close to completing its arguments.

An adjournment of the proceedings appears likely in view of Ramadhan, the Moslem month of fasting, due to start next week.

Mr Bhutto's wife Begum Nusrat and daughter Banazair have been paying regular visits to the jail to see the former prime minister. Begum Nusrat, who has been under detention for the past several months, was transferred yesterday to nearby federal capital Islamabad and detained there in a house at her request.

BRIEFS

UK GRANT TO PAKISTAN--Pakistan is to get about 66 million dollars from Britain as grant under an agreement signed in Islamabad on 31 July. The grant, which is for mutually agreed projects in Pakistan, fulfills Britain's pledge made at the recent meeting of the Aid to Pakistan Consortium. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 78 BK]

PAKISTAN SCIENTIFIC DELEGATION--A Pakistan scientists delegation has left Islamabad for Peking on a 3-week study tour of the hydroelectric power stations in China. The delegation will study the designs of various hydroelectric projects and equipment and manufacture of hydroelectric pumps equipment. It will also study the general practicing of combatting erosion of turbines and maintenance and inspection of units in service. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 78 BK]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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